

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an updated database service to be available to third party subscribers, including maintaining a listing of undesirable destinations, said system comprising:

a directory identifying the third party subscribers to the updated database service;

a database for listing the undesirable destinations, said database accessible to the third party subscribers; and

a switch device connected to said database to disable any particular telecommunication initiated by a communication sender on behalf of a third party subscriber that is directed to an undesirable destination listed in the database. ~~The system of claim 1~~

wherein said switch device adds a code identifier to the telecommunication, said code identifier preventing completion of a telecommunication to an undesirable destination listed in the database.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein said code identifier automatically prevents completion of a telecommunication to an undesirable destination without any intervention or action by the communication sender.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1-6~~ wherein the communication sender comprises automated equipment for initiating the telecommunication, and said switch device causes a disabling message to be routed back to said automated equipment in order to prevent completion of the telecommunication.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1-6~~ wherein the communication sender is a human agent for initiating the telecommunication, and said switch device causes an announcement message to be routed back to said human agent in order to prevent completion of the telecommunication.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~4~~6 further comprising:
a communications network for transmitting the sales, promotional, survey or informational telecommunications, said communications network comprising one or more of the following: wireless, cable, Internet, satellite, radio, television, power lines, LAN, WAN, PSTN.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~4~~6 further comprising:
a communications network for transmitting telecommunications comprising one or more of the following types of messages: voice, text, alphanumeric, fax, data, image, audio, video.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~6~~4 further comprising:
database management means in communication with said database for downloading periodic revisions to be incorporated into said database.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an updated database service to be available to third party subscribers, including maintaining a listing of undesirable destinations, said system comprising:

a directory identifying the third party subscribers to the updated database service;
a database for listing the undesirable destinations, said database accessible to the third party subscribers; and
a switch device connected to said database to disable any particular telecommunication initiated by a communication sender on behalf of a third party subscriber that is directed to an undesirable destination listed in the database. ~~The system of claim 4~~
wherein said database comprises a do-not-contact list.

Claims 14-18 (Canceled)

19. (Original) A method of blocking certain telecommunications sent via a communication network by telemarketers that subscribe to a “do-not-contact” database service, said method comprising:
maintaining a directory of the subscribing telemarketers;

identifying at a network node selected telecommunication messages transmitted from said subscribing telemarketers;

screening all such selected telecommunication messages to compare an intended destination with a database of “do-not-contact” destinations; and

blocking screened messages from being delivered to an intended destination that is listed on said database.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said directory comprises a list of originating message addresses for subscribing telemarketers, and said identifying recognizes said originating message addresses.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 which further comprises periodically updating the database of “do-not-contact” destinations.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said database comprises listing “do-not-contact” destinations in accordance with categories determined by demographic characteristics.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19 which further comprises overriding said blocking function based on predetermined exemptions.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein said overriding comprises entering an authorization code, and generating a record confirming the exemption.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~32 wherein said initiating comprises activating automated equipment for initiating the telecommunication message, and said remedial action comprises automatically blocking delivery of said selected telecommunication message.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~32 wherein said initiating comprises using a human agent for initiating the telecommunication message, and said

remedial action comprises automatically blocking delivery of said selected telecommunication message.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~32 wherein said initiating comprises using a human agent for initiating the telecommunication message, and said remedial action comprises giving an instruction to said human agent to terminate the transmission.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~28~~32 wherein said remedial action comprises an audible instruction to said human agent.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~29~~32 wherein said audible instruction is a verbal instruction or a coded signal.

Claim 31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing delivery of certain telecommunications in a communication network comprising:
initiating a telecommunication message on behalf of a sender for transmission via the communication network to a proposed destination address;
screening the telecommunication message at a network node to compare the proposed destination address with a periodically updated database of undesirable destination addresses;
taking remedial action to prevent delivery of a selected telecommunication message having the proposed destination address listed on said periodically updated database;
providing a directory listing of subscribing message senders;
identifying particular telecommunication messages transmitted from said subscribing message senders;
performing said screening and said remedial action only with respect to said particular telecommunication messages from said subscribing message senders; and
The method of claim 31 which further comprises
maintaining a common periodically updated database of “do-not-contact” destination addresses, said common updated database accessible to said subscribing message senders.

33. (Original) A system for providing an updated “do-not-contact” database service available to third party subscribers sending telecommunications via a communications network, comprising:

- a periodically updated database for listing the “do-not-contact” destinations;
- a node for receiving and forwarding selected telecommunications from a third party subscriber along the communications network to a proposed destination address, said node having access to said database for comparing the proposed destination address with the “do-not-contact” destinations in said database; and
- blocking means for preventing delivery of said selected telecommunications to any “do-not-contact” destinations in said database.

Claim 34 (Canceled)

35. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein said database is incorporated as part of the communication premises of a third party subscriber or its message originator.

36. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein said database is incorporated as part of the communications network separate and apart from the communication premises of a third party subscriber or its message originator.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36 wherein said database is accessible to other third party subscribers.

38. (New) The system of claim 33 wherein said node is incorporated as part of the communication premises of a third party subscriber or its agent.

39. (New) The system of claim 33 wherein said node is incorporated as part of the communications network separate and apart from the communication premises of a third party subscriber or its message originator.